

Upper Mississippi Conservation Area

Waterfowl Hunting Information



General Information:

The Upper Mississippi Conservation Area includes federal lands along the Mississippi River north of St. Louis, Missouri. It consists of 87 separate tracts totaling 12,500 acres lying between the Melvin Price Lock and Dam and LaGrange, Missouri. These tracts are managed for wildlife purposes under permits granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Those portions of the area that lie within Mississippi River Pools 24 and 25 are managed by Missouri Department of Conservation Staff based at Elsberry, Missouri. For information about this portion of the area contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Box 201
Elsberry, MO 63343
573-898-5905

The Pool 26 portion of Upper Mississippi Conservation Area is managed by Department of Conservation staff based at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. For information about this portion of the area contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
801 Strodtman Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63138
314-877-6014

Waterfowl Hunting Procedures:

Most tracts of land in the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area are designated as either **Open** or **Restricted** waterfowl hunting areas.

In general, hunting is permitted by statewide regulations in open areas. In restricted areas, hunters must hunt from blinds at designated sites. More information about both of these hunting styles is given below.

There are a few tracts that do not fit into either of these categories. For example, the 500 acre Clarksville Refuge is a tract that is located just upstream from Clarksville, Missouri. No hunting or firearms are permitted within this refuge and it is closed to all public use from October 15 to the end of the local waterfowl season each year. Also, there are several small public use and public access sites that are closed to hunting.

Open Waterfowl Hunting Areas:

Blinds may be constructed without site restrictions but they may not be locked. Blinds unoccupied at one-half hour before legal shooting time may be used by the first hunter to arrive. No structures other than blinds, boat concealments and decoy lockers are permitted.

Restricted Waterfowl Hunting Areas:

Designated blind sites are allocated by a system of registration and drawing established by the Department of Conservation. Blind sites are registered to hunters for a period of two consecutive waterfowl seasons and those hunters are required to build and camouflage a blind within 10 yards of the site marker. Blinds must be constructed to meet the specifications described below and must be completed by September 20 of each year.

Blind registrants may list up to three co-registrants. Blinds that are not occupied at one-half hour before

legal shooting time may be used by the first hunter to arrive.

Drawing and Registration Procedures:

An “in person” drawing will be conducted in July of even numbered years to select blind registrants for the next two consecutive waterfowl seasons. Blind registrants will select co-registrants the day of the drawing.

- A current Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit (ages 16 - 64), Missouri Migratory Bird Permit and signed Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (federal duck stamp) are required to participate in the drawing and a photo I.D. will be required.
- Blind registrants and co-registrants must be 16 years of age or older.
- No person can be listed on more than one blind as either a registrant or co-registrant.
- Name, address, phone number, date of birth and conservation number must be provided for all co-registrants.
- Names of co-registrants may not be changed during the entire two year blind registration period.

Blind Specifications:

In Restricted Areas, blinds must be constructed to meet or exceed the following specifications. Blinds shall be enclosed on all sides, include a partial roof, a floor and be at least four (4) feet high, four (4) feet wide and eight (8) feet long. Blinds must be constructed within ten (10) yards of the blind site marker and must be camouflaged so as to completely conceal the blind and its occupants. Boat concealments and dog platforms are encouraged but not required. There are no required specifications for blinds in Open Areas.

Blind Inspection

Blinds shall be completed and ready for inspection, including final camouflage, by September 20th of each year. An inspection will be conducted on or around September 20 of each year. The results of this inspection will be made available by September 25th at the following web site <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/> or by contacting the previously listed offices. Registrants

for blinds that do not pass this initial inspection may appeal that decision by contacting the appropriate office. All appeals must be resolved by September 30th or the blind will be entered into the reallocation drawing. It is the blind registrant's responsibility to learn the inspection status of their blind either by calling the previously listed offices or checking the regional website. Registration cards for the primary registrant and all co-registrants will be mailed to the primary registrant for blinds that pass this inspection.

Reallocation Drawing:

A drawing will be conducted on the first Saturday in October each year to re-allocate blinds that were revoked or relinquished by registrants. The procedures for this drawing will be similar to the procedures used for the July drawing. This drawing will be conducted at the St. Louis Regional Office at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles County. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the drawing will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Other Information and Regulations

- Blind registrants from the previous seasons shall be given until August 20th to remove the blind from their site. Any blinds or blind building materials left on sites after this date shall be made available to the new blind registrants.
- Structures other than usable blinds, boat concealments and decoy boxes are prohibited.
- Commercially operated blinds are not permitted.
- Blind sites may not be sold or leased.
- Decoys may be left out at all times.
- Blinds may not be locked.
- In Restricted portions of Upper Mississippi Conservation Area waterfowl may be hunted only from blinds at designated blind sites during the regular duck and Canada goose seasons. This restriction does not apply during early teal and early Canada goose seasons due to the fact that some blinds may not be completed by that time.